

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY EA/ANP:LJMOSE:RLW

APPROVED BY EA:PCHABIB

S/S:O - PSHANKLE

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P 200209Z MAR 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 062807

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ANZUS, OVIP, NZ, (ROWLING, WALLACE E.)

SUBJECT: ANZUS: ROWLING VISIT

REF: WELLINGTON 726

1. NEW ZEALAND AMBASSADOR LLOYD WHITE CALLED ON ASSISTANT SECRETARY HABIB MARCH 19 TO INFORM DEPARTMENT OF FACTS (REPORTED REFTEL) THAT MAKE IT IMPOSSIBLE FOR PM ROWLING TO ATTEND ANZUS COUNCIL MEETING. HE APPOLOGIZED ON BEHALF OF PM ROWLING FOR SO LATE A CHANGE IN PLANS.

2. WHITE ALSO REPORTED THAT ROWLING WOULD BE INTERESTED IN A CALL ON THE PRESIDENT ON MAY 7 OR 8, IF CONVENIENT. HABIB STATED USG HAD LOOKED FORWARD TO ROWLING VISIT FOR ANZUS COUNCIL; HE ASKED IF ROWLING MIGHT RECONSIDER AND COME -- OR IF THE ANZUS COUNCIL MEETING WOULD BEST BE POSTPONED. WHITE SAID GNZ HOPED TO KEEP THE PRESENT ANZUS SCHEDULE AND PROMISED TO SEND A "SENIOR MINISTER" TO REPRESENT ROWLING. PARTY CONFERENCE AND FALL ELECTIONS IN NZ WOULD MAKE ANZUS POSTPONEMENT VERY INCONVENIENT.

3. HABIB REPORTED TO WHITE THAT AUSTRALIAN PM WHITLAM HAD
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ALSO REQUESTED A MAY 7-8 MEETING WITH PRESIDENT FORD AND

THAT LEE KUAN YEW WAS SCHEDULED TO VISIT THE US MAY 8. HE
ASKED IF A MAY 7 MEETING MIGHT BE ACCEPTABLE TO ROWLING IF

WHITLAM WERE ALSO SEEING THE PRESIDENT THE SAME DAY.
WHITE SAID THAT HE FELT SUCH A SCHEDULE, IF POSSIBLE,
WOULD BE QUITE ACCEPTABLE TO PM ROWLING. MR. HABIB
PROMISED TO RAISE THE POSSIBILITY WITH THE WHITE HOUSE
AND TO INFORM AMBASSADOR WHITE. INGERSOLL

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